

**Article: "Why Did The Neanderthals Die Out?" By Robin McKie**

1. What do you think that the author meant when she said that the solo status of human beings on the Earth was "an evolutionary oddity" ?
2. Around what time period did Homo Sapiens arrive on the European continent?
3. Describe the type of scientific test used to date how old fossils may be. Is this test reliable, why or why not?
4. How did modern-day scientists use evidence from the eruption of the Campi Flegri volcano that occurred 39,000 years ago to test their hypothesis about the real date that Neanderthals may have died out on the European continent?
5. Describe the impact that the eruption of the Campi Flegrei volcano 39,000 years ago may have had on the Earth.
6. Why do scientists believe that Homo Sapiens who migrated out of Africa may have played a role in the demise of the Neanderthals?
7. What did modern-day scientists discover about the eye sockets of Neanderthals? How were their eye sockets different than those of Homo Sapiens?
8. How did the differences in brain sizes and development of their brains affect (influence) the survival of Homo Sapiens and the extinction of the Neanderthals?
9. Why were extended clans important to the survival of Homo Sapiens, and how did this factor lead to the extinction of Neanderthals?
10. What did modern scientists learn about the children of Neanderthals by studying the fossils of their teeth?